

AGRICULTURAL APPROPRIATION BILL.

JANUARY 13, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. WADSWORTH, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 9961.]

The Committee on Agriculture, having had under consideration the estimates submitted as necessary for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898, present the accompanying bill to the House and submit the following report:

The amount appropriated for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, was \$3,255,532, and the amount carried by this bill is \$3,152,752, a net decrease of \$102,780, as follows:

Appropriated for salaries for fiscal year ending June 30, 1897.....	\$464, 400
Amount provided by this bill, salaries.....	468, 690
Amount estimated for fiscal year ending June 30, 1898.....	494, 350
Appropriated for "miscellaneous" for fiscal year ending June 30, 1897....	2, 791, 132
Amount provided by this bill, "miscellaneous".....	2, 684, 062
Amount estimated for fiscal year ending June 30, 1898.....	2, 611, 062

The amount carried by this bill for salaries is \$25,660 less than the estimates, but is \$4,290 in excess of the amount appropriated for this purpose for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897.

The total amount carried by this bill for "miscellaneous," Department of Agriculture (including Weather Bureau), is \$107,070 less than the amount appropriated for the same purpose for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, although your committee has provided for an increase of \$25,000 under the head of salaries and expenses, Bureau of Animal Industry, but is \$73,000 in excess of the estimates, which, however, do not include the item for seeds, which, for the current year, amounted to \$150,000.

The amount provided for salaries and expenses, Weather Bureau, is exactly the same as the amount finally estimated for, and is \$330 less than the amount appropriated for the same purpose for the current year.

The few proposed changes in internal organization of the Department, provided by this bill, have been sanctioned by your committee, believing the same will be conducive to more economic and effective administration of the affairs of the Department.

The slight increase in salaries provided in this bill (amounting in the aggregate to \$4,290) have been approved and are hereby recommended, for the reason that after careful investigation and consideration they are believed to be just and meritorious. The only material increase carried by this bill over the appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, is the \$25,000 under the head of salaries and expenses, Bureau of Animal Industry, previously mentioned.

The inspection of meat provided for in the act of March 3, 1891, has not yet been extended to all parts of the country, and there are numerous abattoirs and packing houses which have requested such inspection, and which have not, up to the present time, received it. This inspection has been extended as rapidly as a competent force of inspectors could be trained and organized. The expenses of this Bureau have therefore increased from year to year since the inauguration of this inspection.

The increase in expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, over the year ending June 30, 1895, was \$61,993.99. During the first three months of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, the increase in expenditures was \$34,497.73, indicating that there can be only a very small balance remaining unexpended at the end of the current fiscal year.

The extension of the meat inspection should certainly be continued, as the establishments which have not been granted the inspection can not compete on equal terms with those that have it, and they consequently suffer a hardship on this account. If this policy is to be continued—and it was evidently the intention of Congress at the time the meat-inspection bill was passed that all meats slaughtered for the interstate or foreign trade should be so inspected—the appropriation must be sufficiently enlarged to cover the increased expenditures.

Congress has always heretofore made somewhat larger appropriations for this Bureau than was absolutely necessary for the work in hand in order to have an emergency fund which could be drawn upon in case of the outbreak of any dangerous contagious disease among live stock, or in case of extraordinary demands for inspection of meats going to foreign countries requiring certificates. The estimates for the coming year do not include such emergency fund, and can not, therefore, be reduced without crippling the inspection and putting it beyond the power of the Department to cope with any emergency which might arise.

The present wide distribution of the Asiatic cattle plague, or rinderpest, in Asiatic and African countries from which hides are shipped to the United States, and the prevalence of foot and mouth disease in European countries with which we have extensive trade may be mentioned as some of the existing dangers to the live-stock industries of this country.

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